

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) 1. A sack for compressing compressible material contained therein, the sack including:[]

a pliable body portion for receiving the material, the body portion having a lower base portion, wall means and an upper opening for introducing the material into the sack and removing it therefrom;

cover means exterior to the body portion and fixed thereto proximate the opening and having cover fastening means for releasably fastening to the body portion proximate the base whereby the cover means covers the opening, and

a plurality of straps and/or connectors exterior to the body portion and attached thereto;

wherein the cover fastening means and the plurality of straps and/or connectors are operable to compress material in the body portion.

2. (Original) A sack as claimed in claim 1, and including shoulder straps cooperable with another or others of the plurality of straps and/or connectors whereby the sack constitutes a backpack.

3. (Original) A sack as claimed in claim 2, wherein the upper portion of the wall means constitutes the opening and includes a drawstring for the opening.

4. (Original) A sack as claimed in claim 3, wherein the body portion is shaped to be substantially cylindrical when full and the cover means is cap-like and adapted to cover and extend below the opening when the cover fastening means is fastened to the body portion.

5. (Original) A sack as claimed in claim 4, and including a porous pliable panel member between the shoulder straps juxtaposing the wall means and attached thereto to constitute a sleeve on the back of the back pack, whereby when used as a backpack the panel constitutes a breathable barrier between the user's back and the backpack with the sleeve being adapted to stow a stiffening member and/or hydration bladder, and when not used as a backpack the sleeve is adapted to optionally stow the shoulder straps.

6. (Currently Amended) A backpack including: [[-]]
a pliable body portion having a lower base portion, wall means and an upper opening for introducing material into the backpack and removing it therefrom;
cover means exterior to the body portion and fixed thereto proximate the opening and having cover fastening means for releasably fastening to the body portion proximate the base whereby the cover means covers the opening;
a plurality of straps and/or connectors exterior to the body portion and attached thereto, and
shoulder straps fixed to the body portion proximate the opening, the shoulder straps cooperating in use with at least one of the plurality of straps and/or connectors and being stowable when not in use;
wherein the cover fastening means and the plurality of straps and/or connectors are operable to compress compressible material in the body portion.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Canceled).